

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated July 15, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 15, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the title of the invention. Applicants have amended the title to more clearly describe the invention to which the present claims are directed.

The Examiner has objected to the specification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d) as not describing the method of constructing the optical connector assembly as recited in claims 13-20. In response, Applicants have canceled these claims without prejudice, thereby obviating the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, Applicants have canceled these claims without prejudice, thereby obviating the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Goldman et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,590,229; hereinafter "*Goldman*"). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9

USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Further, the elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Claim 1 recites that "the first plurality of termini is unbiasedly fixed within the first connector." In contrast, both female and male members of the connector disclosed in *Goldman* have springs that provide a compressive force for urging faces of contacting ferrules together as described at column 7, line 55 to column 8 line 29. Therefore, *Goldman* fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 1.

Applicants submit that claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are patentable over *Goldman*. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Goldman* in view of *Lampert* (U.S. Patent No. 5,067,783). Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Goldman* in view of *Knutson et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,759,601). Claims 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Goldman* in view of *Linden et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,301,213).

Claims 3-4, 9-10 and 11-12 all depend from claim 1, which Applicants submit is patentable over *Goldman*. Accordingly, Applicants submit these claims are also patentable and request withdrawal of this rejection.

Double Patenting

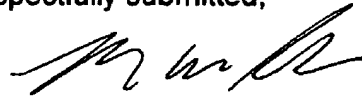
Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-15 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,685,361 ("the '361 patent"). In response, applicants have amended the claims to include a limitation not present in any claims of the '361 patent. Consequently, the present claims cannot claim the same invention as that claimed in the '361 patent. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0441.P1

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all issues set out in the final office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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